
**ARRANGEMENTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF
SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND EXTENDED SERVICES 4.8(b)(4)**

Vocational Rehabilitation is purchasing services from sixteen private non-profit providers, one private-for-profit and one public agency for the provision of supported employment services and extended services. Representatives from Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health previously conducted regional visits to providers and regional staff. The purpose was to assess the program needs and funding requirements. Based on the results, new supported employment guidelines and outcome-based reimbursement methods were implemented the beginning of FFY 2008.

All units that purchase extended services fall under the administrative control of the North Dakota Department of Human Services and have developed a Memorandum of Agreement. Representatives of Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation and Mental Health and Substance Abuse updated the MOU which is expected to be signed during summer 2009, and will continue to meet regularly to review, develop and amend policies, procedures and fiscal issues.

In cooperation with Mental Health and Substance Abuse, VR is participating in a special supported employment demonstration project in one of the regional offices. The project uses an evidence-based supported employment model for individuals with the dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse. The project began March 2009 and is in the early stages of implementation. The VR state office program administrator responsible for supported employment has extensive involvement in the project and program review, including being a member of the fidelity review team.